



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
December 14, 2016

Dear Interested Person:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is requesting public review and comment on the following items. Supporting information on this item can be found on our website under "Opportunity for Public Comment" at fwp.mt.gov/hunting/ and or directly by using the links below.

2017 Spring Turkey Quotas – Proposed:

FWP proposes to increase license numbers for male spring turkey in Region 3 and in Cascade County in Region 4. These proposals are meant to increase hunter opportunity as turkey populations in these areas continue to thrive and grow. All other elements of the spring turkey license quotas and limits are proposed to remain unchanged from 2016. Proposed changes are summarized below:

- 399-20: increase Region-wide general licenses from 200 to 400
- 399-21: increase Region-wide youth licenses from 25 to 100
- 445-20: increase Cascade County general licenses from 10 to 15

Allow the Use of Lighted Nocks on Archery Equipment – Proposed:

FWP proposes to allow the use of lighted nocks on archery equipment. This proposal was brought to FWP by the Montana Bowhunters Association (MBA) and evaluated using the recently-adopted Fish and Wildlife Commission Policy on Archery Season Intent and Equipment Evaluation Criteria. The Pope and Young Club (P&Y Club), a national bowhunting organization, recently allowed the use of lighted nocks in its bylaws. FWP agrees with the MBA and P&Y Club that lighted nocks do not change the basic tenets of bowhunting as a primitive weapons sport, nor does it compromise the premise of fair chase because the use of lighted nocks does not impart any additional advantage to the hunter during the pursuit and stalk of the animal up to and including the point of taking a shot.

Wildlife Management Area Biennial Public Use Rules – Proposed:

The rules for public use of Wildlife Management Areas are established by the Fish and Wildlife Commission on a biennial (2-year) schedule. FWP proposes to adopt the existing rules with a few edits and the addition of a new rule pertaining the use of drones.

TO MAKE A COMMENT

For further clarification or additional materials, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612 or email at fwpwld@mt.gov. Comments will be accepted: online by using any of the links below; in writing sent to the address above; and by email to fwpwld@mt.gov.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE & FINAL ADOPTION MEETING

All proposed items will be accepting public comments until **January 13th at 5 p.m.** with final adoption at the **February 2017 Commission meeting**.

- ✓ **2017 Spring Turkey Quotas – Proposed**
<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/publicComments/2017/springTurkeyQuotas.html>
- ✓ **Allow the Use of Lighted Nocks on Archery Equipment – Proposed**
<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/publicComments/2017/useOfLightedNocks.html>
- ✓ **Wildlife Management Area Biennial Public Use Rules – Proposed:**
<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/publicComments/2017/wmaBiennialUseRules.html>